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Happy New Year Shipmates!

As we enter the New Year, I suggest you take a few minutes to look back and reflect on this past year and ask yourself the following questions: what did I contribute to the United States Navy in the last twelve months? Also, did I do the right thing during the entire year, as well as live up to our Navy Ethos?

If you're like me, you tend to get caught up in day-to-day events and sometimes forget about things that happened months ago or even a few weeks ago. Take time now to think back and remember all the great things you and the

Navy accomplished. There were many good things along the way, just as there were many challenges, but challenges are good because they make us stronger.

Now, looking ahead to the future - what will 2011 look like? I'm hopeful this will be our best year ever. Yes, we will have some difficult times ahead of us and we will all encounter bumpy roads along the way. My question to you is this - what are you going to do about it?

First, I hope we all strive to live up to our Sailor's creed and Navy's Ethos. Let's treat each other with dignity and respect. Do not prey on the weak or take advantage of a situation or Shipmate when someone is vulnerable. Instead, be a Shipmate and get them back on the right track. Second, let's all say no to alcohol abuse and set high standards and expectations for ourselves and those we lead.

What team are you going to be on? The losing one that hangs their head in shame because they let their teammates down during the big game or the one that raises the trophy in triumph and stands victorious on the field of battle.

It's your decision to make! The great Vince Lombardi wrote, "Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." What's your commitment for 2011?

I'm sure you're all familiar with the tradition of New Year's resolutions, and I'm sure that most of you made some of your own. I challenge each of you to make a promise to yourselves, and your families, that you will only do your best and will always make the right decisions. For those of you in a leadership position this means that you will not drink and drive. It means that you will not compromise what it means to be a leader. It means you will set the example and not violate the UCMJ. It means that you will hold yourselves accountable and those you lead to live up to our Core Values.

In return, I promise you I will do my best to ensure you have the right tools, training and leadership to succeed in your career and achieve your personal goals. That is a tremendous challenge given our fiscal and manpower constraints and our current operational tempo, but I will do my best to deliver.

Together we can achieve great things. We have a great team, but it will take the commitment and sacrifices of each and every one of us. What are your New Year's resolutions and what will you do to make our Navy and yourselves even better during 2011?

Let's have a great year Shipmates and, as always, Thanks for All You Do!

Very Respectfully,
Fleet Minyard

Eye on Ethos

Forward Deployed Naval Forces

Normally Eye on Ethos focuses on the achievements and contributions of individual Sailors, but this month I want to commend the entire chain of command and crew of three ships assigned to Carrier Strike Group 5 in the Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF). The Asia-Pacific region is one of the most dynamic areas of our rapidly-changing world, and the fleet has to be flexible and responsive to address a range of activities that are particularly important in the region. Ships assigned to the FDNF are required maintain a high state of readiness and respond to emergent tasking on short notice, even during the holiday season and required maintenance upkeep periods.

The guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh (CG 67) put to sea for an unscheduled mission/patrol while it was in the middle of a leave and upkeep period. After receiving a deployment order Dec. 17, the ship initiated a recall at 6 p.m. and had all hands present and accounted for at quarters the following morning at 8:30 with the exception of the small percentage allowed to take leave stateside or out of the country. Shiloh put to sea that afternoon for an undetermined length of time with an exceptionally motivated crew with high morale and focus. Shiloh is commanded by Capt. Matthew Loughlin and the command master chief is CMDCM(SW/AW) Shellinda Miller.

Two more FDNF ships, USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) and USS Stethem (DDG 63), put to sea the following afternoon, also for an undetermined length of time. Like Shiloh, both Fitzgerald and Stethem were in port for a leave and upkeep period when the recall was initiated, but they had an even shorter recall window than Shiloh's crew. Displaying true FDNF spirit, both ships executed the recall with pride and professionalism and were able to get under way the same day. Fitzgerald is commanded by Cmdr. Dennis Velez and the command master chief is CMDCM(SW/SCW) Eric Cole; Stethem is commanded by Cmdr. Hank Adams and the command master chief is CMDCM(SW/AW) Kevin Coleman.

All three ships are part of the U.S. 7th Fleet and are permanently forward-deployed to U.S. naval facilities in Yokosuka, Japan.

On the Horizon

Navy And Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) will commence deployment of NAVFIT98A Version 29 throughout the NMCI Enterprise on Jan. 4. Version 29 supports the E5 forced distribution policy changes announced earlier this year. This policy change is effective for E5 evaluations submitted with an end date of March 15, 2011 or later. Non-NMCI users can download NAVFIT98A Version 29 beginning Jan. 1 at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/careerinfo/performanceevaluation/softwareforms>. See NAVADMIN 417/10 for details.

Nominations are being collected for the 2011 Capt. Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Awards. Established in 1987, these awards are presented annually to recognize the inspirational leadership of a Navy and Marine Corps officer and enlisted member on active or reserve duty for their efforts in fostering a positive working environment for reinforcing and furthering the integration of women into the Navy and Marine Corps. Nominations are due by Jan. 25. See NAVADMIN 389/10 for more information.

Nomination packages for the 2011 Defense Maintenance Awards are due by March 4. The Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Maintenance Awards Program enhances maintenance awareness and encourages maintenance excellence by formally recognizing below-depot level military units responsible for outstanding achievements in maintenance management and production. The 2011 Robert T. Mason Depot Maintenance Excellence Award recognizes the most outstanding depot-level maintenance program, product line or project, which has exemplified responsive, innovative, and transformational support to the Department Of Defense. See NAVADMINs 383/10 and 384/10 for submission requirements.



YOKOSUKA, Japan (Dec. 22, 2010) IT3 Luis Figueroa, assigned to the U.S. 7th Fleet command ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), builds a toy with an orphan from the Shunko Gakuen Boys and Girls Home in Yokosuka, Japan. Blue Ridge is the command ship for Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brian A. Stone/Released)

Bravo Zulu

2010 Navy Community Service Program Environmental Stewardship Flagship Award

Small Shore Command

Medium Shore Command

Winner:

Winner:

CNATTRU, Whidbey Island

Naval Base San Diego

Honorable Mention:

Honorable Mention:

Afloat Training Group MIDPAC

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Fiscal Year 2010 Copernicus Awards

ITC Carlos A. Pelaez

Expeditionary Strike Group THREE

Scuttlebutt

Issues and Answers from the Fleet.

Issue: I have orders to Bahrain and I'm being told I have to get a passport and visa for me and my family members. Why is that?

Answer: The DoD Foreign Clearance Guide (FCG), which provides detailed travel and AT/FP requirements for DoD employees, is continually updated to reflect current travel and entry agreements between the U.S. and foreign countries. The FCG was updated in September to require DoD military and civilian personnel and eligible family members moving to Bahrain to possess a no-fee passport and obtain a visa prior to traveling there. I know it's a bit more paperwork, but if the alternative is leaving your family members behind or converting Bahrain back to an unaccompanied duty location, I'm sure you'll find the extra bit of paperwork well worth your time. For more information on country clearance and entry requirements, you can find the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide at <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>.

Issue: I will be deployed this year when tax returns are due. How can I file my taxes on time and get my refund back quickly?

Answer: Not to worry Shipmate, this is not the first time a Sailor has been deployed during the tax season. What you need to do is find out who your command Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)/Electronic Tax Filing (ELF) representative is, and what arrangements your command has made for filing taxes. Last year VITA/ELF volunteers filed more than 61,000 federal and state tax returns which resulted in more than \$81 million in refunds for service members and family members. Commercial tax services can easily cost a hundred dollars or more, but VITA/ELF representatives can process and file your paperwork for free. Last year alone they helped save more than \$7 million in tax preparation fees. If you do not have a VITA/ELF representative, contact your nearest Navy Legal Services Office for assistance.

For more News and Information about U.S. Pacific Fleet visit:

<http://www.cpf.navy.mil>

<http://twitter.com/PacificFleet>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/compacflt/>

<http://www.facebook.com/USPacificFleet>

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